country including the State of Punjab under the on going schemes on self employment like Integrated Rural Development programme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Scheme for Urban Micro Enterprises under Nehru Rozgar Yojana, etc.

(c) It may be mentioned that employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan envisages a strategy for accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities in the country both for the educated as well as the uneducated unemployed on the basis of a faster growth of employment-Intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. In addition, various special employment schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana etc. being implemented in various states, provide additional wage and self employment opportunities.

Import of Sugar

64. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the various news items appearing in the print media against the import of sugar; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the early part of the current season when the firm production trends were not available, Government, with a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar for public distribution System, in the event of sugar production not coming up to the expected level, have directed STC& MMTC to enter into forward contracts for import of sugar. However, in view of the encouraging production trends indicative of higher level of production likely to be achieved, Government has decided to dispose of as much as of the contracted sugar as is possible in the international market at the best possible price.

Importers availing benefits of Export Capital Goods Scheme

65. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of importers who had availed of the benefits of Export Capital Goods Scheme that provides for import of machinery at concessional rates of duty against export obligations during 1994-95;

(b) how many of these importers defaulted in fulfilling the export commitments; and

(c) what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken against such defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the year 1994-95, 2077 licences were issued under EPCG Scheme. As the Export Obligation period against these licences is valid till 1999-2000, there is no question of any default at this stage.

राष्ट्रीय श्रम केन्द्र

66. **श्री राम जेठमलानी** :

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि असंगठित क्षेत्र के कर्मकारों के हितों के संरक्षण के लिए हाल ही में राष्ट्रीय श्रम केन्द्र (नेशनल सेन्टर फार लेबर) नामक मजदूर संगठन का गठन किया गया हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके बारे में पूरा ब्यौरा क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच हैं कि असंगठित क्षेत्र में कार्यरत कर्मकारों की दशा संगठित क्षेत्र के व्यक्तियों की तुलना मे बहुत खराब हैं;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या हैं; और